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—	Winter.	Spring.	Summer.	Autumn.	Mean.
Temperature, Fahr. .	58°·54	66°·46	78°·34	73°·81	69°·29
Rain in inches . .	6·247	0·278	0·008	0·974	Total. 7·507

TABLE of Mean Monthly Temperature at Alexandria, from Observations by Hugh Thurburn, Esq.

—	1847.	1848.	1849.	Mean.
January	58°·28	56°·87	56°·94	57°·36
February	60·06	58·73	54·70	57·83
March	63·32	61·67	61·49	62·16
April	67·10	65·66	68·19	66·98
May	70·81	69·98	69·99	70·26
June	76·72	76·53	75·46	76·25
July	78·28	78·17	79·05	78·50
August	80·29	80·53	80·04	80·28
September	78·57	77·43	78·40	78·13
October	73·87	76·48	74·27	74·84
November	66·57	69·86	69·09	68·47
December	59·27	61·58	60·47	60·44
Mean	69·43	69·46	69·01	69·29

IX.—*Extract from Vice-Consul C. H. DICKSON's Report of his Journey from Tripoli to Ghadamis.*

Communicated by the Foreign Office.

Read March 8, 1852.

THE accompanying map shows the route from Tripoli to Ghadamis usually taken by caravans, and which I followed in the year 1849. It is constructed on a spherical projection, from bearings taken with a Kater's pocket-compass; and in order to determine the distance from one stage to another, I employed a string 1000 yards long, held at each extremity by a man on foot, who proceeded along with the caravan, marking every length of the string, while I at the same time noted them down, and marked also the hour of departure and arrival.

As the present route has never before been travelled over by Europeans (Major Laing and Mr. Richardson, the only two Christians who visited Ghadamis before me, having proceeded, the former through Wady Shiatty, in Fezzan, and the latter *viâ* Seenawan), I shall add a short description of the most remarkable

SKETCH
of a route from
TRIPOLI TO GHADAMIS

by
C.H. DICKSON
British Vice Consul
1851.

— M^r Dickson's Route.
— Route of Mess^{rs} Richardson, Barth
and Overweg to the South in 1850.





stages, beginning at *Zanzour*. This is reckoned one of the finest districts on the coast of Tripoli for richness of soil and good water, and enjoys, moreover, a healthy and temperate climate. It contains a population of about 4000 Arabs, besides a few Jews. The village, from whose centre rises an old Moorish castle, is closely hemmed in with gardens, surrounded on every side by hedges of the cactus-opuntia, or prickly-pear bush. Its productions are olive-oil, melons, corn, dates, and onions, which are particularly esteemed throughout the regency. Starting from this village, a fine broad road leads through the small oases of Seyad and El Maya to *Zawia*, which is considered one stage from Tripoli, distant 25 miles. This is a large district, and the residence of a Raid, who has also under his jurisdiction the oases of El-Harshia, Bou-Asa, Ogba, Sorman, Dahman, Bou-Ajeela, and Zoagha, containing an aggregate population of about 20,000 souls, belonging chiefly to the tribes called Orshefana, El-asà, and Juari; there are, moreover, some 500 resident Jews. I may also observe that the natives have claim to sanctity, on account of their descent from a noted Marocquine marabout, by name "Sidi El-lijeh," who, according to tradition, was the first propounder of the Mahomedan faith in these parts, about the twelfth century. The quality of its soil is much inferior to that of Zanzour, yet *Zawia* yields the same productions. To these, however, must be added extensive plantations of tobacco, of an indifferent sort, which is monopolized by the Government. The climate in some localities is unhealthy, particularly in the oasis of Soagha, where ague is very prevalent in autumn. A fact worthy of notice is the recent introduction, under the auspices of Government, of silkworms, the rearing of which, owing to the number of mulberry-trees they possess, promises to extend rapidly throughout these villages. A fair is held at *Zawia* on Mondays and Thursdays, to which most of the neighbouring tribes resort. From *Zawia* caravans are directed to a well called Homra, distant 7 miles, passing first through the gardens of El-Harshia; the water being superior to that of Shauabiyeh and El-khoreji, a sufficient quantity is here collected to last till they reach the Jebel Mountains, a journey of $2\frac{1}{2}$ days, being all together about 100 miles from Tripoli. There are no villages between *Zawia* and the Jebel, except the oases of Shukshuk and Joosh, at the foot of these mountains, which I shall refrain from describing on account of their lying out of the present route. On quitting *Zawia*, the ground keeps gradually rising, and presents but few sand-hills; the whole tract consists of a prairie covered with brushwood, with occasional patches of corn-fields scattered over it, the latter the property of the Bel-arà and Jedouri tribes. The spot marked El-Gharga is a halting-place in a hollow on the plain; and

Wady Ethel is not a running stream, but merely a narrow torrent-bed, containing a little rain-water in winter, and on the borders of which grow clusters of wild tamarisk-trees, whence it derives its name. After quitting Wady Ethel, and as you gradually approach the mountains, this lofty range, with its tapering peaks and bold elevations, becomes more fully displayed, and, as the ground rises, beds, consisting of sharp flints and pebbles, occasionally interrupted the solemn but sure pace of the camel; in other places the hills are covered over with wild thyme, and a variety of aromatic herbs peculiar to these elevated regions. Caravans now proceed either to Yefren, to Zintan, or to Rujban, but more commonly to the two latter, from the circumstance of the camel-drivers being natives of these places. Yefren is the chief district, and the residence of a *kaïmakan*, or lieutenant-governor, whose authority extends over Ghadamís, and over all the Jebel and Gharian range. Since the subjugation of the Jebel in 1844, the Turks have erected a fort at Yefren, in which are stationed 500 troops, being the total amount of garrison force in these mountains. A military road has lately been constructed leading to it from the foot of the mountains. The Jebel is evidently a continuation of the Atlas chain, and commences at the Tunisian frontier, and extends in a north-easterly course as far as the Valley of Kirdmeen, where it joins with the Gharian; it is remarkable for the ruggedness of its surface, and presents a striking contrast to the Gharian and Tarhona ranges, by displaying everywhere massive rocks of flint and hard limestone, intersected by innumerable ravines and precipices. Perched on the summit of these immense blocks are seen the villages of the natives; while in the valleys below, corn-fields and clumps of date and fig trees present an agreeable relief to the eye. By observations made by Dr. Overweg, the African traveller (attached to the late Mr. J. Richardson's Mission), the highest peak in this range, which rises in the neighbourhood of Yefren, is 2800 feet above the level of the sea. The houses have merely one story, and are of very rude construction, being low and irregularly shaped; they are built of stones cemented with gypsum, but without plaster on the outside. The district of Zintan, however, forms an exception to this rule; the natives, like those of the Gharian, living in subterranean cells. In those places which possess no wells or springs, tanks are constructed for collecting rain-water, which is then reserved only for domestic purposes, no irrigation being allowed to the soil in summer. Fassato and Yefren contain the purest water, supplied from living streams.

The population of the Jebel may be roughly estimated at

60,000, comprising about 1000 Jews, which latter reside chiefly at Kikleh and Yefren. It is divided into 16 districts, subdivided into villages, and each possessing a sheikh, a kadi, a mosque, and a kasbah, or blockhouse, erected in feudal times for purposes of defence. The largest and most populous district is Fassato, divided into 11 villages, and containing altogether about 6000 souls. The other districts are in succession from E. to W. as follows:—Rabtah, Kikleh, Yefren (*Jedaret*), Khlaïfa, Riaina, Zintan, Rujban, Raheibat, Hraba, Tumzeen, Kabao, Hawamid, Oulad Mahmoud, and Naloot.

The natives form three distinct classes: one which claims to be aboriginal, and must have descended from the Berbers, whose language it partly retains, having some affinity with that spoken by the Tuarics and natives of Ghadamis. This class does not belong to any of the four orthodox sects of Islam, but in common with the Wahabites it differs on various dogmas, thereby embodying itself into a fifth order of Mohammedans, hence termed Khoamsa. The second class consists of nomadic tribes of Arabs, some of whom also reside in villages. Though living in promiscuous communities, these two classes seldom or never intermarry; and, in former times, they continually retaliated upon each other their implacable feuds. The number of Khoamsa amounts to about 32,000, who reside principally at Fassato and Yefren. Besides these, there is another tribe, amounting to 9000, called Siaan, which inhabits the plains below, and the oases of Joosh and Shukshuk. These are noted for possessing numerous flocks of sheep and camels, to the amount of about 100,000 of each. The Jebel produces an abundance of olive-oil and corn; besides dates, figs, grapes, melons, a few vegetables, wool, and butter. Fassato supplies the greatest quantity of oil, having altogether about 12,000 olive-trees. The quantity of barley usually sown exceeds that of wheat by one-half, and gives an average of sixty-fold. There are also extensive manufactures of goats'-hair sacks and woollen blankets, but all of very coarse texture. The amount of taxes exacted from this portion of the regency, exclusive of Ghadamis, is 24,000 mahboub (4000*l.*). This sum is rated according to an estimate of the number of sheep and cattle each village possesses. Government claims, moreover, a tenth part of the annual produce of corn and oil. These taxes are paid in quarterly and sometimes half-yearly instalments, and are a source of endless complaint on the part of the natives, owing to the inequitable mode in which they are assessed.

Among the objects deserving of notice in the Jebel are numerous ruins of ancient Roman towers, scattered over the whole of its surface, some bearing inscriptions. The following epitaph was

found in the Valley of Roumieh, during my journey from Yefren to Zintan :

DMS
IVLIA FAVS
TINA VIXIT
RPAA NNXXVIII
MXIDXIV.....ION
RAIVS.....LIB.

Having quitted Zintan, the caravan now entered on the desert of Sahara, the greater portion of which, to within a few miles of the oasis of Derge, is not entirely destitute of vegetation, but affords abundance of brushwood and shrubs, serving as food for camels ; while, on the other hand, this immense expanse teems with herds of antelopes, ostriches, wadan (*Ovis tragelaphus*), and bagarr-el-wahsh, or wild ox.

There are no villages between the Jebel and Derge. Tlagsheen is a solitary well of indifferent water, 2 days' journey from Zintan ; and the other points of my route marked on the map are mere halting-places and landmarks, the whole line presenting, at intervals, ridges of hills composed of sandstone, more or less blackened by the influence of the atmosphere, and occasionally, though seldom, a few sand-hills. In some parts the soil is remarkably fertile, yielding a rich pasture in spring, when it is visited by wandering Arabs with their flocks.

The Hamada (table-land) consists of an extensive stony plain, stretching across the Sahara as far as Fezzan ; and Sreer-ej-jeleb is a wilderness, so named from its being often fatal to sheep while traversing it, owing to its utter sterility.

After a journey of 6 days, the caravan reached Derge, a distance of nearly 180 miles from the mountains. It consists of 4 oases—Derge proper, Tugoutta, Matris, and Ifilfelt—situated at no great distance from one another, and separated by ridges of stony hills. Matris is more elevated than the rest ; a salt plain intervenes between it and Derge, which probably accounts for the unhealthiness of its climate. The water, likewise, of these oases, except that of Matris, is deemed unwholesome. The population may be computed at 2000, and, unlike that of Ghadamís, is essentially rural, yet speaking the same language. The staple produce is dates, of a superior quality, corn and gussob-grapes ; apples and vegetables are also reared, but in small quantities.

These oases pay a tax of 1050 mahboub (175*l.*) a-year to the Pasha of Tripoli, besides the other of a tenth part of the annual produce of corn.

As you proceed from Derge to Ghadamís, the road is at first rugged and difficult, leading through a deep labyrinth called Wady Attaf, then over high sand-hills to another hollow, the Shaabel,

whence it emerges in a north-westerly direction, bearing towards two high prominences, called the Krub, at the base of which lies the track that conducts to Ghadamís. The Shaabeh and Krub are noted haunts of the Shaanbah robbers. From the Krub the palms of Ghadamís are just perceptible, displaying a dark streak in the horizon ; and, as you gradually approach this oasis, the soil undulates over thick layers of gypsum.

Concluding Remarks.—The distance from Tripoli to Ghadamís, as computed according to my measurements, is 320 geographical miles, the whole journey having occupied 17 days, exclusive of stoppages. This route is not the shortest, but, from the fact of its being less exposed to the incursions of the Algerian robbers, is preferred by caravans to the more direct one of Seenawan and Hraba, an easy journey of 10 days, and which I suppose to be some 250 miles long, at an average rate of 25 miles per diem. My journey may be deemed a fair rate of caravan-travelling in winter, giving as daily average 18 miles in 8 hours, or $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles per hour.

A remarkable feature in the geological structures of this part of the Sahara is the numerous shells and other organic remains with which it abounds. These are observable in the vicinity of Tlagsheen and in the neighbourhood of Derge ; the localities in which they exist presenting more or less marks of sterility.

X.—*Notes from a Journal kept during a Hunting Tour in South Africa.* By HENRY S. GASSIOTT, Esq.

Communicated by Colonel SYKES.

Read March 22, 1852.

THE few remarks I now offer to the Royal Geographical Society will, I trust, be viewed with some indulgence, as my recent visit to Southern Africa was never intended in my own mind to be one of geographical research. The few observations which I have now to present to the Society may, however, be of some service in the guidance of future travellers.

On a recent map, kindly given to me by Mr. Arrowsmith previous to my departure from England, I marked my course by compass, taking 3 miles per hour as the speed of a regular bullock-waggon. This was entered in a rough journal which I kept, from which I have made extracts, comprising the particulars contained in the present paper.

I left London in the 'Agincourt,' accompanied by two friends, on the 19th of July, 1850. We arrived at Cape Town on the 20th of September, when we had the mortification of being in-